

May 20th, 2014
5:30 PM

The City Council of the City of Inverness met on the above date in Regular Session at 212 W. Main Street with the following members present:

President Hinkle
Vice President Hepfer
Councilwoman Bega
Councilman McBride
Councilman Ryan
Mayor Plaisted

Also present were City Manager DiGiovanni, City Attorney Haag, Asst. City Manager Williams, Development Services Director Malm, Finance Director Chiodo, Woodard & Curran Director Regina, and City Clerk Davis.

The Invocation was given by Mayor Plaisted and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by the City Council.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to accept the Agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilman Ryan. The motioned carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

4)a) Zoning Change - Flowers Bakery – 2nd Reading – Correspondence was provided to City Council which indicated this to be the second reading of the Ordinance to amend the City's Current Zoning District map for the expansion of the Flowers Bakery facility. The enclosed map illustrates that the applicant seeks approval to amend some +/-ac of lots 28 & 29 from Residential 1 to Commercial.

Councilwoman Bega motioned to have the City Clerk read the ordinance by title only. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 2014 - 702

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF INVERNESS, CURRENT LAND USE/ZONING DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION MAP ON APPROXIMATELY .50 ACRES OF LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL ZONING TO COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ZONING AS FURTHER DESCRIBED HEREIN BELOW; PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION INTO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Public Hearing was opened.

For: Avis Craig, Planning Consultant, P.O. Box 568, Lecanto, FL approached Council regarding their application for Zoning Change and asked that remarks previously made by her on the Comp Plan and Zoning change be made part of the record this evening. She praised Councilmembers and staff for working recognizing the importance of business expansion.

Against: None

The Public Hearing was closed.

Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to adopt Ordinance 2014-207 by roll call vote. Seconded by Councilman McBride. Roll call vote was as follows:, Councilman Ryan, yes; Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilman McBride, yes; Councilwoman Hepfer, yes; President Hinkle, yes. The motion carried.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

None

SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

None

MAYOR'S LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Mayor Plaisted explained requirements to attain an Eagle Scout Designation. He then recognized Walter Cook, and John Murphy Scout Leader, and presented Walter's Bio and the project he accomplished. Mayor Plaisted also recognized Noah Pippin, and his Scout Leader, Steve Epple, and Noah's father, Mr. Pippin. He also provided his bio and described the project he accomplished.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to accept the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilman McBride. The motion carried.

- a) Bill Listing*
 - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes – 05/01/14WS & 05/06/14*
 - Recommendation – Approval

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

10)a) Compactor Lease Agreement- City Manager DiGiovanni explained that this had to do with the Solid Waste Program as it relates to the Historic Downtown area, commercial venues, and shared dumpster program. We as a City need to be flexible in how we tailor the program to ensure its affordability and functionality to the businesses. The dumpsters need to be camouflaged and are located in the parking lot outside the IGC,

and blend with the building, vs. on the street or in visible areas. We planned and constructed two structures which will contain compactors, are mechanized, control odor, accept more volume, and is a much more functional situation. The compactors enable security, and will be keyed for the paying and participating businesses only. This is a lease program and noted that he expects what we have built will be in this location for approximately 30 years. He noted, in the agenda packet is not a cost out of the City budget, but a pass through program of shared costs with participating businesses. We ask that they accept the agreements, terms and conditions, which is for two dumpster units @ \$5,160 per annum, which will be funded through the commercial sanitation program, using rates imposed in the Historic Downtown District.

Councilman McBride questioned the access by others not permitted to use the dumpsters. City Manager DiGiovanni explained that the units have a keyed door for access, which only the business participant will have access to. Mayor Plaisted stated how this falls in line with solar compactors, which will also compress the garbage as well.

Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to accept the terms, conditions and cost of the Lease Agreement for two compactor units and authorize the City Manager to execute the document. Seconded by Councilman McBride. The motion carried.

10)b) Funding Approval – Manning Document Update was addressed. City Manager advised how the City has experienced a steady increase in activity with the handling of new utility contract, customer payment and general activity. Department activity demonstrates an added demand of 1,000 hours at the customer service count, which under normal conditions translates to the need for a half-person. The half-time person will not fulfill the need when an absence occurs, and we have concluded that operational integrity will best be protected with a full time employee. We are guarded with any recommendation to add staff or increase reoccurring cost and make this recommendation with facts and experienced observation. This involved creation of a Staff Assistant – Utility Billing position at a fiscal cost of \$14,000 to fund this for the remainder of the budget year. The addition of a new position requires the approval of City Council and passage of the enclosed enabling Resolution.

Councilman Ryan motioned to have City Clerk read Resolution 2014-19 by title only. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2014-19

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA AMENDING THE ADOPTED BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2013 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014, AMENDING THE UTILITY FUND REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilman McBride questioned what the base salary was for this position. Finance Director Chiodo advised it to be \$11 to \$13, being approximately \$27,000 plus benefits, annually.

Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to adopt Resolution 2014 by roll call vote. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Ryan,

yes; Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilman McBride, yes; Councilwoman Hepfer, yes; President Hinkle, yes. The motion carried.

10)c) ICRA Board member Appointment – Diana Fender - City Manager DiGiovanni noted that Ms. Diana Fender has submitted an application for membership on the Inverness Community Redevelopment Agency. She is currently employed by Insight Credit Union in Inverness and has been employed in the banking and financial industry for over 30 years.

Councilwoman Bega motioned to appoint Diana Fender as a member of the volunteer Inverness Community Redevelopment Agency. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried.

10)d) ICRA Renewal and Expansion Update – Not addressed

City Manager DiGiovanni additionally reported on the following:

- The City was recognized for the Chronicles “Best of the Best” Award, Honorable Mention for this year’s Cooter Festival, and the “Best of the Best” Award for Recreation Facility, being Whispering Pines Park.
- Budget development is ongoing in preparing the documents for Services and the Capital Improvements of the City, which will be brought to City Council in the end of July, with the final document in September. Much activity this time of year in building these documents.
- He noted a casual “think tank” group session meeting he attended with members of Tourist Development Council (TDC) and members of County Government. They spoke of cycling and the importance of connecting phosphate towns, the gap from the Withlacoochee Trail and other connections needed to join cities and communities within the County. They spoke of the City to City Bicycle Ride between the City of Inverness and Crystal River, which demonstrated that the connectivity of the two cities is plausible and needs to be exploited from a tourism standpoint. There are areas in the southern area of Citrus County that are not yet conducive to cycling. When the City launched 12-13 yrs. ago, to invest pedestrian and cycle friendly roads and streets, we were criticized. The seeds planted then and the improvements of the roads in the City now and all the cycling in downtown is very positive. This is now seen as an economic boom and people want to participate.
- Spoke to activities in Inverness last weekend, The Doo Wop the Block and Farmer Market and how successful they were.
- Spoke to recent editorial on the Fire Service issue and his disagreement with their thought process and conclusions. Their definition of sprawl was odd, as it is not defined by the size or number of people of a sprawling community. The editorial did not mention the impact was a mill in taxation, which is in addition to what we are already spending and is approaching 2 mills in taxation. He pointed to the manner City Council works to keep the cost of service levels reasonable and affordable.

COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS

Mayor Plaisted spoke to ribbon cutting of the new Trail in Dunnellon and the NARLEO event, which was a great tribute to those who gave their lives in the line of duty. He stated that the MSBU Workshop was interesting and learned a lot. He commended City Manager DiGiovanni for his staying power with the City.

Councilwoman Bega thanked City Manager DiGiovanni for vocalizing the comment on the level of services we have in the city compared to the costs to our commercial and residents. This is good for public knowledge. Wished all a wonderful holiday weekend and mentioned the Schools out Rock the Block City event this Saturday night.

Councilwoman Hepfer spoke to the editorial on the Fire Service workshop & didn't agree. She wished all a safe Memorial Day Holiday

Councilman Ryan was nullified by the recent Chronicle Editorial. He attended the fallen officer's ceremony and it was a tribute to society that we honor them. Doo Wop Concert was wonderful, and congratulated the Eagle Scouts and the High School Graduates.

Councilman McBride appreciates that so many of our elected officials and staff can attend these events. He spoke to the editorial in Chronicle and came close to responding. He felt the newspaper is somewhat out of touch with the people and don't get it. It would be irresponsible for Council to vote on MSBU as we currently know it.

President Hinkle commented on the recent Chronicle Editorial noting that (by law) we have to agree with the MSBU to have our citizens pay taxes. He noted all the services provided to our citizens, to include activities and parks which are free. He spoke to cycling and how the state has programs taking bicyclers across the state and how it creates revenue for the cities. It's great to hear of the achievements of graduating students, and noting the Eagle Scouts and their accomplishments.

Mayor Plaisted stated that he had received postcards from a local woman, Martha Meacham, who visited Inverness Scotland and thought it was important for us to have these postcards from our Sister City.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

None

Meeting adjourned @ 6:28pm

City Clerk

Council President